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GENERAL

1. Western European attitude toward defense planning--The US coordinating committee for European military aid (ECC) expresses concern over the first signs of diminishing European public conviction of the "essential rightness" of proceeding resolutely with combined North Atlantic Treaty defense planning. ECC believes that development of this tendency, together with such unsettling events as the H-bomb and Soviet successes in the Far East, "could lead to a resurgence of the neutrality complex" in Western Europe and a weakening of the will to build Western solidarity and strength.

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2. Southeast Asian views on the Bao Dai Government--The Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, in reporting the impressions gained from the recently concluded US diplomatic conference in Bangkok, expresses the opinion that Bao Dai's Asian neighbors consider him to be a "French puppet" and are not prepared to support his government unless its status is modified drastically. The Assistant Secretary recommends that US assistance to Indochina be contingent upon a public agreement by the French to take steps which would lead to Indochina's achieving a status similar to that of Indonesia.

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State Dept. review completed

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